

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00636 282152Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 281918Z JAN 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1511

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0636

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: ASF DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 19280

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM WAS CONDUCTING TALKS WITH VISITING SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA THIS AFTERNOON AND COULD NOT RECEIVE MY DEPUTY UNTIL 1930 LOCAL. AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO PRESENTATION, HE FIRST ASKED THAT HIS REGARDS BE TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARY ALONG WITH HIS THANKS FOR SHARING WITH SYRIA THE US CONTACTS WITH PRES. SARKIS REGARDING PRESENCE OF ASF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. KHADDAM THEN CONFIRMED THAT WHILE NO SYRIAN RESPONSE WAS REQUIRED SINCE U.S. MESSAGE DIRECTED TO PRES. SARKIS, HE NEVERTHELESS FELT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT AT ISRAEL'S ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LEBANON, AS INDEPENDENT STATE AND MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. "WE HAVE NEVER HEARD LEBANON COMPLAIN OF PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FORCES NEAR LEBANON'S SOUTHERN BORDERS, SO ON WHAT BASIS DOES ISRAEL COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON - WHICH IS PART OF THE ARAB NATION - ASSUMING FUNCTIONS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND UNDER ORDERS OF PRESIDENT OF LEBANON?"

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3. ISRAEL, KHADDAM CHARGED, WANTS TO EXPLOIT PRESENT MOMENT WHILE NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO CREATE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WILL FRUSTRATE MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE AND PREVENT USG FROM PLAYING ITS ROLE IN THIS PROCESS JUST AT TIME WHEN IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN REGION FAVOR MOVEMENT TOWARD A JUST PEACE MORE THAN AT

ANYTIME IN PAST. IT IS ALSO CLEAR, KHADDAM OBSERVED, THAT
ANY ACT OF BELLIGERENCY OCCURING IN THE REGION OR ANY ATTEMPT
TO OCCUPY TERRITORY WOULD DESTROY THE POSSIBILITY OF
MOMEMENT TOWARD PEACE, LEAVING WAR THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

4. AS MEETING CLOSED, KHADDAM ASKED INTERPRETER/NOTE TAKER
TO PREPARE REPORT OF MESSAGE AND HIS RESPONSE FOR DELIVERY
TO PRES. ASAD EARLY SATURDAY MORNING.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TROOP CONCENTRATION, PEACE PLANS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC00636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840083-0485
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977019/aaaaahwe.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c48e84de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 19280
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3679470
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASF DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, IS, SY, LE, US, AL, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c48e84de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009